

IS REAL PRODIGY IN MATHEMATICS

William Stong Solves Most Intricate Problems Quickly and Without Effort.

ANSWERS APPEAL INSTANTLY

Has Declined Many Offers to Travel and Demonstrate His Gift in Public—Enjoys Amusement He Evokes.

Bloomington, Ill.—Illinois possesses a mathematical prodigy in William Stong, twenty-eight years old of Tazewell county. He has been able to solve any problem in arithmetic that has been given to him. He reads off millions and billions with equal precision and promptness. One of his feats is to wander down to the railway station when a freight train dashes away and add up the numbers on the sides of the cars. By the time the last car has passed he has the total.



William Stong.

People who are skeptical concerning his powers come long distances to test them. They are primed with brain-racking problems, but all prove easy for Stong. One of the most common questions relates to the number of seconds in a lifetime, given the date of birth. One who propounded this problem gave him the date January 26, 1873. Right off the reel came this re-

ply: "15,873 days, 378,392 hours, 22,708,540 minutes, 1,362,211,000 seconds."

Another problem was: "It is 155 miles to Chicago. How many pounds of rails in the track at 80 pounds to the yard?" Without hesitation came the reply: "430,380,000."

Some of His Feats.
Another one was: "An automobile wheel is 30 inches in diameter. How many revolutions will this wheel make in traveling the 100 miles to Chicago?" Stong came back with this answer: "164,476 revolutions."

A nail problem came next. He was told that 32 nails would be driven. One cent would be paid for the first, 2 cents for the second and double the sum for each succeeding nail. He was asked how much he would be paid for the thirty-second nail. Almost instantly the answer given: "21,474,000.48."

One skeptic propounded: "With 25,000 miles around the earth and silver dollars at an inch and a quarter in diameter, how many will it take to girdle it?" Stong answered: "1,267,200,000."

"The Illinois river flows at the rate of 400 cubic feet an hour. If a reservoir was constructed one mile long, one mile wide and half a mile deep, how long would it take to fill it if the water from the river was diverted?" Stong hesitated for a few moments and then gave the answer: "183,597,440 hours."

One man tested Stong with this railroad problem: "There are 750,000 miles of steam railroads in the world. There are 352 rails to every mile. To every pair of rails there are 18 ties with 4 spikes per tie. There are 5 bolts to every rail and 2 steel plates per tie. How many rails, ties, spikes, etc.?" Within a few moments Stong told his audience to put down the following answer: "There are 264,000,000 rails, 2,367,000,000 ties, 528,000,000 flanges, 950,504,000 spikes, 1,302,000,000 bolts and 4,752,000,000 plates. At 85 pounds to the yard there are 224,400,000,000 pounds of steel in the rails. At 50 tons per carload, there would be 2,244,000 cars or 44,880 trains of 50 cars per train."

Was Despair of Teachers.
He was asked to give the total of all the numbers from one up to 9,000, adding them together. His answer was 46,084,800. The total of the numbers from one up to 9,000 was 3,042,930,000.

Stong was asked how many bricks would be required to lay a pavement from New York to San Francisco, 2,678 miles, the pavement to be 60 feet wide and the brick 8 inches long and 2 inches wide. He figured that it would require just 10,291,377,600 bricks.

Asked to divide 68,719,476,736 by 32,768, he answered instantly: "2,097,165."

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If you want any Express delivered to any part of the city apply to Luis Escudero.

Stong says this peculiar talent has been with him since early youth. He was the despair of the teachers and the envy of the other children when he solved problems in a moment that required hours for the others. He says there is no particularly severe mental strain when working out the problems, that the answers stand out in front of him, so promptly is the response of his extraordinary brain to the demands that are put upon it. Stong never grows impatient when there are undue demands made upon him for answers to their problems. He treats all courteously and enjoys the look of amazement he evokes.

Stong has had many opportunities to travel with a circus and exhibit his extraordinary mental gift, but has declined all offers.

BREAKS PACT; WEDS ANOTHER

Philadelphia Society Girl Gives Up Civilian and Marries Captain of Militia.

Philadelphia.—Miss Elizabeth du Puy Scott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Hutchinson Scott of this city, and well known socially, was married at Mount Gretna to Capt. Walton Clark, Jr., of Company L, Second regiment.

Previous to the marriage the bride sent a telegram to James Gould, Jr., of Philadelphia, breaking their engagement, which was announced April 29.

The wedding came as a surprise to all except the immediate families. Miss Scott went to camp, and Captain Clark, obtaining leave of absence, came with her to this city and obtained a marriage license. The bride's father was in New York on a business trip, but he was hurriedly recalled, and, together with Mrs. Scott and others of the party, went to the camp for the wedding ceremony, during which other members of Company L stood at attention, and the balance of the regiment assembled around the group. The ceremony was conducted by the regimental chaplain, Rev. Robert J. McPeck.

FINANCIER DISOWNED SISTER

Displeased Over Her Marriage, He Gave Her No Share in His Fortune.

Baltimore.—By the will of John Black, aged retired financier, probated recently, \$275,000 is left to a number of Episcopal institutions and the Johns Hopkins university, which also became residuary legatees. The estate is estimated at \$1,000,000. Provision was made for one of the financier's two sisters. She, however, died a few weeks ago.

Mr. Black had another sister, Harriet, whom he disowned about forty years ago because she married a Doctor Adler, a Jew. Mr. Adler also is dead, but there are two or three sons surviving, one of whom is said to be a rabbi, who are now believed to be in New York or Philadelphia.

The estrangement had been complete between Mr. Black and his sister Harriet, although Elizabeth, the other sister, is said to have forgiven her sister, and had her picture hanging in her bedroom.

Mr. Black never married, and his nearest relatives in Baltimore are said to be second cousins.

AMSTERDAM GHETTO DOOMED

Famous Landmark of Holland's Capital to Give Way for State Project.

Amsterdam, Netherlands.—The inexorable housing reformer has reached the famous Amsterdam ghetto, and is making a first assault on the miniature Jewish state that has existed for more than three centuries in Holland's capital on the Zuyder Zee and has constituted for the modern tourist one of the sights of the city. One of the most thickly populated quarters of the city known as the "island" of Oudeburg, has been condemned and is gradually being cleared of its several thousand inhabitants. Plans have been drawn up for the erection of 350 new dwellings in another quarter of the city, half of which number will be let at below \$1.20 a week, the commune or the state adding 20 to 30 cents in some cases.

Living Family Tree.

Devils Lake, N. D.—Mervin Alcide Belcourt, who arrived last week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Belcourt, west of Devils Lake, has the distinction of having a living family tree, the size of which is in the record-claiming class. Besides two healthy parents, Mervin has a grandfather, two grandmothers, a great-grandfather and two great-grandmothers. The great-grandparents are Eugene Belcourt of Montreal, Mrs. Mary Fegant of Seattle, Mrs. Eugene Belcourt, Montreal. The grandparents are Mrs. Alcide Belcourt of Grand Harbor, Alcide Belcourt of Grand Harbor and Mrs. Sarah Belcourt, Williston.

Goos to Wedding; Brings Spouse.

Scranton, Pa.—Miss Margaret Clarke, a telephone operator, whispered to her mother the other night that she was going to a wedding. The next day she returned with "Jack" Scanton, a chauffeur, in tow. "Whose wedding was it?" the mother asked. "Ours," said Margaret.

Girls' Fine School Record.

Eugene, Ore.—Beatrice Yoran, daughter of ex-Mayor D. A. Yoran, has completed a remarkable school attendance. When the high school closed recently this student had rounded out 12 years without once being reported absent or tardy.

WANTED—To buy a relinquishment to a free U. S. Government. Homestead. Give location, description and lowest cash price in first letter. A. L. Banks, Denton, Texas.

FOR SALE—Ferrand-Cecilia piano. Phone 159-W, or call at 115 San Francisco street. At home after noon.

WANTED—To hear from owner of good farm for sale. Send cash price and description.—D. F. Bush, Minneapolis, Minn. 4-21.

WANTS TO FIGHT, BUT IN AMERICA

James Bracy, Black, of Portsmouth, Doesn't Care for Foreign Legion.

SCRAPS 'AROUND WHOLE LOT

Isn't Afraid of the Germans, but Wants to Battle With Them at Home Where He Knows the Country.

By FRED B. PITNEY.

Paris.—"To all is Americans, isn't it?"

It was a very plaintive query, indeed, and I turned from the automobile in which I had ridden into La Vallbonne, the headquarters of the foreign legion, to see a small and very black negro in the uniform of the French army watching me anxiously.

"Yes," I replied, "we are Americans. Are you?"

"Yassuh," said the negro. "Je suis Americain. Parlez-vous Anglais? Ah, comes from Portsmouth, Virginia. Mah name is James Bracy, sub. James Bracy, Bracy. Is yo' got dat name right? Perhaps, yo' wants to write it down?"

James was not martial. He was polite. He was like a small kitten, playing around, begging to be scratched behind the ears.

"How do you come to be here?" I asked.

"Ah come in a grand ship to Bordeaux, wastin' hosses," he replied, "an' when Ah got there, there wasn't no way to git back, so Ah 'listed."

"How long ago was that?"

"Eight months, sub."

He knows Norfolk.

"I suppose you know Norfolk, James?"

"Norfolk?" exclaimed James. "Why of co'se Ah knows Norfolk. Ah comes from Portsmouth."

"And Old Point Comfort?"

"Sub?"

"Old Point Comfort, Chamberlain's hotel, Fortress Monroe."

"No, sub. Ah don't know none of dem."

"But if you come from Portsmouth and know Norfolk, you must know Old Point. It's only eight miles away."

"Aw, sub," said James, "you means Hampton Roads. Why, yassuh, Ah knows Hampton Roads. Ah sailed out Hampton Roads when Ah come here."

James crept a little closer, and became confidential. "Does yo' all reckon on America is goin' to git into de wah?" he asked.

"Do you want America to come in?" I queried.

"Yassuh," he said eagerly. "Yassuh, Ah sho' does want America to come into dis heah wah."

"Why?"

"Cause," he replied, "ev'body round heah says if America comes in we all Americans 'd be 'naturally released an' could go home. An," he added, pleadingly, "Ah sho' would like to wash some clothes again—some regular clothes. Dese heah ain't clothes, rightly speakin', an' Ah sho' would like to wash some clothes again, sub."

"But don't you want to fight the Germans, James?" I asked.

"Yassuh, yassuh," he said. "Yassuh, Ah wants to fight de Germans. But Ah wants to fight 'em at home. Ah sho' wants to lick de Germans to a finish. But Ah wants to do it in de United States of America. Ah's eager to fight de Germans. They ain't nobody much worth Ah sun to fight 'em in Portsmouth, Virginia, which Ah knows de country an' de people an' Ah can fight 'em right."

"You must have had some experience already, James," I said. "You have been in the legion eight months; you must have done some scrapping."

"Oh, yassuh," he replied. "Ah done right considerable scrapping."

"What part of the front have you been to?" I asked.

Scraps Around a Whole Lot.

"Ah ain't been to de front," he said. "Thinkin' a couple of other fellows an' me scraps around 'em a whole lot. Sometimes we wrestles an' sometimes we scraps, but mostly we scraps."

We had gone to La Vallbonne to see the American members of the foreign legion who were still at the depot, and I asked James if he would see him in the squad.

"No, sub," he said. "Ah ain't goin' to be in it."

"Why not?" I asked.

"Ah heahd yo' all was comin'," he explained, "and Ah went to Sergeant Boulogny an' Ah says to him, Ah says, salut'n' of co'se, 'sergeant,' Ah says, 'when de Germans comes to see de legion, Ahse ready, when yo' is. Yo' can call on me,' Ah says."

"But Sergeant Boulogny comes from New Orleans, an' he looked at me an' he says, 'We don't need you,' he says, an' he turned 'round an' walked away. Ah reckon it's 'cause Ah'm cullud, so Ah come ovah heah to ask yo' if yo' all thinks Mistuh Wilson is goin' to do anything 'bout de wah so we all can go home."

Train Rider No Respector of Irons.

Birdsboro, Pa.—Rudolph Michelotti, a train rider arrested by an officer of the Reading railroad, managed to jump a freight train and escape in spite of the fact that both his hands were manacled in irons.

DESERTER GARBED AS GIRL

Frederick Wright Presents Strange Appearance in Dock at London Police Court.

London.—Dressed in a long blue richly braided coat, reaching from neck to heels, and wearing white kid gloves, a college cap and well-looking in fact like a fashionable young woman—Frederick Wright, a man of twenty-two, presented an incongruous appearance in the dock at Highgate police court recently.

There were three charges against him, one being that he was a deserter from the Royal Fusiliers.

Wright, who described himself as a valet, told the police that he had deserted from the army and sought refuge in woman's attire. The prisoner was remanded.

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Columns

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Wife of Senator Wesley L. Jones from Washington.

ROOSTER WALKS BACKWARD

Internal Machinery of Orpington Badly Mixed Up by Operation for Removal of Bone.

St. Marys, O.—Since some weeks ago, when the fowl was operated upon for the removal of a four-inch silver of bone lodged in his craw, an Orpington rooster, belonging to John E. Orphal of St. Marys, O., walks backwards. That the bird simply got started wrong after a month's total disability and that it will eventually learn to go ahead, is the belief of the man who performed the bit of surgery.

Orphal is not so sure about it. He declares the rooster seems to suffer considerable humiliation and the hens of his flock regard him with suspicion. A horse belonging to Orphal was scared out of the stable when the rooster backed in. The chicken, a natural disturber of the peace, learned of his unusual method of progression.

BRITISH STILL MOON NELSON

Bluejackets' Uniforms Show Tribute to Great Admiral—Worn Ever Since His Death.

London.—The black band on the arm which all officers are wearing in memory of Lord Kitchener is a reminder that the navy has not yet gone out of mourning for Nelson.

Everyone is familiar with the three rows of white tape around the collar of the blue collar and the black silk scarf knotted in front which form part of the bluejackets' dress uniform. The former commemorate Nelson's three most famous victories, Copenhagen, the Nile and Trafalgar, while the scarf was first adopted by Nelson's seamen as a mark of mourning for their dead hero and has been retained ever since.

MAY FORCE CHLOROFORM USE

French Likely to Make Use of Anesthetic Compulsory in Army Surgery.

Paris.—The French Academy of Medicine is considering the advisability of recommending the government to make the use of chloroform compulsory in the army, not only in serious operations but also in all cases when the treatment is painful.

At present French soldiers are obliged to submit to vaccination against smallpox and typhoid fever, but they cannot be compelled to accept chloroform against their will.

A committee has been formed to study the question as well as that of rendering compulsory the injection of serums in all cases where the latter are declared to be necessary by the doctor.

SENTENCE IN INSTALLMENTS

Morrison Works One Night, and Then Finishes Term in County Jail.

Uniontown, Pa.—Serving a backup sentence by installments is the latest in Fayette county. Justice of the Peace Henry O'Neil of Smithfield is the originator. William Morrison, a night telegrapher for the Baltimore and Ohio railroad in Smithfield, was arrested recently for speeding. At the hearing he was given his choice between a \$10 fine or 24 hours in the lockup. He chose the latter.

The Baltimore and Ohio officials could not get a man to fill Morrison's position on short notice, and Justice O'Neil went to the rescue. He released the prisoner in time for him to go to work on the promise that he would return the next morning and complete his term. Morrison worked at night and returned to the lockup the next morning.

Baby Afloat in Mississippi

La Crosse, Wis.—Michael Sweeney was working near the banks of the Mississippi in a field when he saw an infant floating down the river. He jumped in a boat, rowed out and picked up the baby. The child's face had been held above water by its thick dresses, and it was none the worse for the wetting. It turned out to be Michael's granddaughter, Mary Sweeney L.

City Hall Robbed of Beer Supply.

Vineyard, N. J.—While the police were searching for boy burglars who had robbed four stores and five residences and tried to smother an aged woman, some unknown person entered the city hall and stole nine cases of beer. The lock of the vault had been picked and the liquid refreshment removed. The beer had been confiscated in raids on speakeasies.

Sir Roger Casement's Appeal Denied.

London.—The appeal of Sir Roger Casement against his sentence of execution for high treason for his activities in the Dublin revolt was dismissed by the Court of Criminal Appeal. Without hearing the attorneys for the crown, the court dismissed the appeal from the verdict of the lower court which found him guilty and, after which Viscount Reading, the lord chief justice, sentenced him to death. Powerful influences are working for a reprieve.

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SLEEPS WHILE BRIDE WAITS

Indiana Merchant Secured a License Then Goes to Sleep and Is Locked in Office.

Lawrenceburg, Ind.—Edward L. Kuhn, aged forty-five, owner of a general merchandise store in Clay township, and Mrs. Anna Moore Davis, aged forty-five, a dressmaker of the same neighborhood, were married at the parsonage of the First Baptist church by the Rev. Omer W. Bowman, the pastor, but not at the time they planned. Mr. Kuhn came to this city in an automobile, and the bride-to-be came on a late train. While waiting for Mrs. Davis, Mr. Kuhn obtained a marriage license, then he sat down in the private office of the circuit court clerk and went to sleep. When the day's work was done James G. McKinney, the clerk, and his deputies, not noticing Mr. Kuhn, locked the office and went home. Mr. Kuhn awakened several hours later, and found he was in the dark, locked in the office. He shouted for help several times, and finally attracted the attention of Daniel E. McKenna, the sheriff, who released him. Mr. Kuhn found Mrs. Davis, who was searching the city for him, and they were married.

MUD HOUSES FOR ENGLISH

Experiments Now Being Made on Building Material by London College.

London.—The possibility of using mud as a building material, and so solving the urgent problem of providing cheap country cottages in the rural districts and housing accommodation in the areas where there has been a sudden influx of war workers is being made the subject of an interesting experiment by the new household and social science department of King's College for Women, University of London.

Six mysterious-looking wails have just been erected in the grounds at Camden Hill, each wall being composed of a different mixture of mud, with a view to testing which proves most suitable to the English climate.

In each case the earth has been subjected to a different process of preparation. In one case waterglass has been added, in another soft soap, and to the earth and soft soap in another case lime has been added. A "grout" of cement has been poured over the mud wall in yet another case, and there is one wall made of earth alone.

CHILDREN OF WAR SECRETARY

Life in Washington for the three children of Secretary and Mrs. Newton D. Baker has been very delightful. The Bakers have leased a beautiful country home in Kensington, Md., appropriately named "In the Woods."

From left to right in the picture, Elizabeth Baker, eleven years old; Margaret, aged four, and Newton D. Baker, Jr., aged nine. The unofficial name of Newton is "Jack." Elizabeth's is "Betty," and Margaret's is "Pecky."

CROW ROOSTS IN A STORE

"Jim" Dropped into Basement of Candy Establishment, and Has Decided to Stay.

Elgin, N. Y.—John Laneve, manager of a confectionery store, has undertaken the task of bringing up a baby crow. "Jim," as the bird is called, was discovered by Mr. Laneve in his cellar. No one knows how the bird found his way to this cover, but evidently he had made up his mind to remain even before Mr. Laneve picked him up and prepared to make a home for the bird.

On the first day after his capture, "Jim" was taken from the store and placed in a tree. He remained on the perch until he became hungry. Then he vacated and flew into the store, where he rested on a perch that had been erected for his convenience.

There "Jim" sits for hours at a time and eyes the customers as they come and go. He tries to say "Hello" when visitors speak to him, but the attempt is a weak one, as it is only a "Caw," said crow fashion.

City Hall Robbed of Beer Supply.

Vineyard, N. J.—While the police were searching for boy burglars who had robbed four stores and five residences and tried to smother an aged woman, some unknown person entered the city hall and stole nine cases of beer. The lock of the vault had been picked and the liquid refreshment removed. The beer had been confiscated in raids on speakeasies.

600,000 ALLIES ON BALKAN FRONT

BRITISH ADVANCE ON 1,000-YARD FRONT NORTH OF SOMME RIVER.

RUSS DISLODGE TURKS

BERLIN REPORTS THAT TEUTONS DRIVE BACK ENEMIES IN TWO BATTLE ZONES.

Western Newspaper Union News Service.

London, July 19.—Official advices received from Saloniki under date of Monday say that cantabounding is in progress along the entire Saloniki front. "Allies' aeroplanes burned part of the Bulgarian crops in the region of Monastir," the dispatches say. "There is cannonading along the whole front."

The information given out in regard to the situation at Saloniki is not sufficiently explicit to indicate whether the entente allies are preparing an offensive movement. A drive from the Saloniki front had been predicted for some time. It is generally understood the allies have 600,000 or more men available on this front for a campaign.

Substantial progress by the British on a front of 1,000 yards north of Oudiers was announced by the war office.

Vienna.—Austrian advanced posts in the region of Zlatibor and Tatarov, south of Kolosova in the Carpathian region, have been pressed back by a Russian attack, says the war office statement. The main Austrian positions, however, have been firmly held. In Volynia, in the region southwest of Linsk, Russian attacks failed.

Petrograd.—A Russian victory over Teutonic forces in southern Volynia has resulted in their being driven across the river Lipa and beyond that stream, says a Russian war office statement. Indications are, the statement adds, that the retreat was effected in the greatest disorder.

Berlin.—Heavy attacks by the British against positions on the Somme front and positions to the east, were repulsed, as were attacks by the French at Blanches, La Maisonette, Barleux and Sevecourt, according to the official headquarters statement.

Copenhagen.—It was announced that two more neutral vessels had been torpedoed. The Ritzau news agency says they were the Dutch ship Denula and the Swedish schooner Bertha, and that their crews were landed at Nyberg.

London.—The successes of the entente allies in driving each other into the sea. Monday brought news of important gains for them on both the western and eastern fronts, arousing enthusiasm among the British public hardly less than that caused by the reception of the first news of the allied offensive. The dispatch of Gen. Sir Douglas Haig shows that the steady pressure of the British army is forcing an ever-deepening salient into the German lines, and the commander-in-chief for the first time produces evidence in the shape of documents captured from the Germans giving testimony as to the high price the Germans are paying in casualties.

The British have improved their position along almost the whole of their line of the battle front, capturing by assault 1,500 yards of German second-line positions north of the Baccantia Le-Petit wood, a strong German position at the Wetzlar farm between Longueval and Gaillemont.

They also have completed the capture of the whole of the village of Oudiers-la-Belle-Allée. These gains bring the British almost to the crest of the Albert plateau, where stretches the German third line.

News from the eastern front was equally important. The Russian commander, Gen. Kuropatkin, has launched an offensive against Field Marshal Von Hindenburg on the Ilyno river, and Gen. Von Linsingen's troops southwest of Lutsk have been compelled to retire behind the Lipa river, while in the course of Sunday's fighting in Volynia the Russians captured an additional 13,000 prisoners and thirty guns.

Lloyd reports the British steamer Euphorbia, the Italian steamer Sierra, and the steamer Virginia (probably British) sunk.

Weevil Destroys Cotton Crop. Jacksonville, Fla.—The Mexican boll weevil has destroyed the cotton crop in large sections of Florida.